

The Draft National Electric Energy Data System (NEEDS) version 5.13

EPA is making the Draft National Electric Energy Data System (NEEDS) version 5.13 5-6-2013 available to the states for comment. This database contains the generation unit data parameters used to construct the "model" plants that represent existing and planned units in EPA modeling applications of the Integrated Planning Model (IPM). This modeling is used for many applications, including establishing the emissions inventory contribution from electric generating units (EGUs) that EPA uses for air quality modeling. NEEDS includes basic geographic, operating, air emissions, and other data parameters on these generating units. Assuring the quality of these modeling inputs helps to support robust projections of future year emissions from these sources.

NEEDS contains information on existing and planned units. Units that are currently operational in the electric industry are termed as "existing" units. Units that are not currently operating but are firmly anticipated to be operational in the future, and have either broken ground or secured financing are termed "planned". EPA maintains this database based upon the latest available data from a variety of sources, including EIA forms 860 and 923, EIA's Annual Energy Outlook, Ventyx information, and EPA's Emission Tracking System (ETS). A user guide to the database can be found at:

http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/progsregs/epa-ipm/docs/v410/Guide_to_NEEDSv410.pdf . The definitions of two fields are clarified below:

- The Uncontrolled NO_x Base Rate represents the NO_x emissions rate for a unit, assuming that if the unit has post-combustion controls (SCR or SNCR), those controls DO NOT operate
- The Controlled NO_x Base Rate represents the NO_x emissions rate for a unit, assuming that if the unit has post-combustion controls (SCR or SNCR), those controls DO operate. For a unit with no post combustion controls, the uncontrolled and controlled rates should be identical.

See the accompanying file for the current version of NEEDS.

Please submit any comments you have to Jeremy Mark (mark.jeremy@epa.gov) by May 31, 2013.